Hqrs. where, *inter alia*, it was decided that the Army would prepare an action plan to bring all ammunition under proper and standard cover within two years and senior officers will be sent to all Ammunition Depots to inspect the safety and security of the Depots and prevent a recurrence of such an incident in the future.

Purchase of T-90 Tanks

323. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deal with Russia to purchase hundred T-90 main battle tanks has been finalised;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the response of Russia; and

(d) by when, it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Price Negotiation Committee has not yet concluded negotiations with the Russian side. The procurement can be finalised only after negotiations are concluded.

Recruitment of Youths from Gujarat in Army

324. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army Recruitment Camps are held in Ahmedabad for recruitment of youths from Gujarat in the Army;

(b) the number of vacancies to be filled up from Gujarat in such a recent Camp held in middle of June, 2000;

(c) the number of persons who turned up for recruitment; and

(d) whether requisite number of recruits were selected or not?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There were no fixed vacancies for this rally. Recruitment in a rally depends on response and number of candidates passing the examination.

(c) and (d) Details of candidates screened and selected in the recruitment

rally held from 19th to 25th June, 2000 at Ahmedabad are as under:—

(i)	Total screened	4327
(ii)	Rejected in physical fitness test, documentation and medical grounds	4107
(iii)	Appeared in written Exam	220
(iv)	Total passed and selected	154

Sea Harriers and Sea King helicopters held up by Britain

325. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.K. Government has held up the return of Sea Harriers and Sea King helicopters sent by the Ministry of Defence to U.K. for normal repairs;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this matter has been taken up with U.K. Government; and

(d) if so, what is their response?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) One Sea Harrier aircraft is, presently, under repair with M/s. British Aerospace, UK, which is likely to be completed by November, 2000. No Sea King helicopter is presently, under repair in UK. However, 169 critical components of Sea King helicopters which were sent to M/s. GKN WHL, UK for repairs have not yet been returned.

(b) After the imposition of US Sanctions in the wake of Pokharan II, the license of M/s. GKN WHL, UK was revoked by M/s. Sikorsky, USA under orders from US State Department. M/s. GKN WHL, UK have suspended all Product Support Activities for Sea King helicopters in India.

(c) and (d) The matter was taken up with the Government of UK who have informed that US Government did not agree to relax sanctions for Sea King Helicopters. However, the U.K. Government have assured that they are pursuing the matter with the U.S. authorities in order to resolve the problem.

Supply of Rifles to Armed Forces

326. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: